

LATE

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2014

THE SENATE
Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Thursday, February 6, 2014; 1:45 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2835
RELATING TO INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD RENTERS**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 2835, which triples the low-income household renter credit for each taxpayer who is 65 years of age or older.

Many taxpayers, working and not working, who are 65 years and older, live on incomes less than \$30,000 a year and pay \$1,000 or more in rent a month. These folks should be afforded as much assistance as possible to keep them from becoming homeless or dependent on others. Tripling of the low-income household renter tax credit is a sensible way to help these individuals.

However, the question is: Why are those 65 and older more deserving of a higher tax credit than any other individual or family living under the same income and rent circumstances? What is more equitable would be to triple the tax credit for all low-income renters.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 2835 with an amendment to eliminate the age criteria. Thank you for considering our views on this matter.

LATE



To: Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Date: February 6, 2014, Conference Room 016, 1:45 p.m.

Re: **SB 2835 – RELATING TO INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD RENTERS**
Testimony - Comments

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP fights on issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; providing the tools needed to save for retirement; and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

AARP provides the following **comments on SB 2835 - Relating to Income Tax Credit for Low Income Household Renters**. This bill would triple the tax credit for low-income household renter taxpayers over 65 years old.

AARP asks the State to continue to explore all ways to address the financial security of older Hawaii residents and low-income renters in particular. Typically these residents over age 65 typically depend on fixed income from Social Security benefits and savings. All the while residents are faced with a rising cost of living on all fronts including rent, health care, food, and utilities. Additionally, as residents age they are challenged with added expenses for long-term care and caregiving. There is a high probability of needing long-term care and caregiving services, as approximately 69% of people over 65 will need long-term care before they die. Unfortunately, long-term care costs in Hawaii are among the highest in the nation and unaffordable for most Hawaii residents. E.g., the average annual nursing home cost (private room) is approximately \$145,270, as compared to the nation average of \$83,950. In the face of such rising expenses, low-income renters may have a hard time making ends meet in retirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 10:13 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: cdmitche@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2835 on Feb 6, 2014 13:45PM*

SB2835

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for HMS on Feb 6, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christiaan Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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